Stamp Day 2016 in Oberaargau
A courtly venue for philately in Aarwangen

Yello
Internationally renowned Swiss musicians

Joint issue Switzerland – Dominican Republic
Stepping from winter into summer

4/2016

Focus on stamps

The Collector's Magazine

Numismatic letter **Solar Impulse**

SWISS POST

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Credit card number

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Date/Signature:

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Fotolia

Jan Riephoff

From the Dominican Republic, to schoolchildren at play and Swiss pop duo Yello – our fourth issue in 2016 covers a wide range of topics.

Dear Reader

If you are reading these words, then I'd like to thank you. Thank you for being a loyal customer and taking an interest in our stamps. How enthusiastic are you? Do you simply like individual stamps and use them to adorn your letters, or perhaps you have been an avid collector for 10, 20 or 50 years already?

We are well aware that customer loyalty is by no means a given, and I can assure you that we will continue to do everything in our power in future to ensure that you, dear reader, can go on enjoying exclusive motifs. So while you're relaxing with this stimulating read, we are already working hard on planning the next stamp year.

We hope you enjoy this issue and are looking forward to Christmas: Scan the Christmas stamps with your smartphone from 11 November 2016 to find a surprise. You'll find more information on this on page 6 and in the online version of Focus on Stamps: postshop.ch/focusonstamps

Roman Heini
Head of Stamps and Philately

Cover page: Aarwangen Castle. Photo: Thomas Rathgeb

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A thank you to our subscribers

Swiss Post would like to thank all its stamp and postmark subscribers for their long-standing loyalty with a gift of an attractive high-quality folder.
The exclusive folder contains the original "Laser cut" miniature sheet as featured in issue 3/16 published on 8 September 2016. A limited edition of this sheet was produced. It was presented in Focus on stamps 3/16.
The subscription gift will be sent out with issue 4/16 or with the 2016 annual order as applicable. **This folder is not available to buy!**

If you would like one of these desirable collector's items but do not yet have a standing order, then don't delay – take out a standing order today and you will receive the exclusive folder as a gift.

Our Customer Service would be happy to help.
Tel.: +41 (0)848 66 55 44, e-mail: stamps@swisspost.ch

We hope you continue to enjoy collecting Swiss stamps.

Stamp counter moving from the Fraumünster to the Sihlpost

From 10 October 2016, you will find the stamp counter with our comprehensive range of services at the Sihlpost post office: Kasernenstrasse 97, 8004 Zurich.

Take advantage of attractive opening hours in a central location directly next to Zurich main station.
The stamp counter at the Fraumünster post office will remain open until 6 October 2016.

Swiss Post's General Terms and Conditions of Business concerning the purchase of stamps and philatelic items form an integral part of individual orders and are tacitly accepted by each customer who sends an order.
These Terms and Conditions can be ordered by telephone (+41 [0]848 66 55 44) or by e-mail (stamps@post.ch). They are also available at swisspost.ch/gtc-phila.

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Stamp issue: 17.11.2016

37 years making Swiss musical history **and still going strong**

Dieter Meier and Boris Blank: Two men who achieved worldwide fame with their music.

Sound experiments in an automobile test lab marked the birth of the band Yello in 1979, and albums like "Stella" revolutionized electronic music in the early eighties. Worldwide hits including "The Race", "Oh Yeah" and "Bostich" garnered the musical duo Dieter Meier and Boris Blank major chart successes in the USA, Germany, UK and Switzerland. In 1997 the pair received the Art Prize of the City of Zurich, and in 2014 they were presented with the German Echo Lifetime Achievement Award to honour their 35 years in the business. Boris Blank is the duo's sound architect. Using sophisticated sampling techniques, he builds up soundscapes that form the backdrop for Dieter Meier's unmistakable voice and constantly surprise listeners. For their new album TOY to be released on 30 September 2016, the studio was transformed into the magical world of a children's playroom. Yello are to play live for the first time ever at Berlin's Kraftwerk on 26, 28, 29 and 30 October 2016.

Swiss Post Ltd

Yello

CHF 1.00

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Single stamp
A115 150 ★
A115 550 ⊙
CHF 1.00

Block of four
A115 160 ★
A115 560 ⊙
CHF 4.00

Sheet of 20 stamps
A115 111 ★
A115 511 ⊙
CHF 20.00

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Unstamped cover C6
A115 700
CHF 0.90

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A115 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 1.90*

Block of four on first day cover C6
A115 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 4.90*

Folder/collection sheet
A115 640 ★
A115 650 ⊙ *CHF 1.80*

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 to 31.12.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 17.11.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Cartor Security Printing La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 194×140 mm (4 rows of 5 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13¼:13½

Design
Yello, Zurich

First day cover motif
(blind embossing)

First day cancellation

Four stamps for the festive season

The first miracle had already happened: snow had started falling just in time for Christmas Eve. But that's not all …

Right after she awoke, Anna looked out the window to find the meadow behind the house was covered in a deep blanket of snow. "That's at least 10 centimetres!", she gleefully exclaimed. She then happily helped her mother make the last batch of Christmas cookies that morning. They were baking cinnamon stars and *Mailänderli* cookies, topped with snowy white icing. At lunchtime Anna couldn't help taking another look at the splendid white expanse behind the house. The snow was still there of course. But then Anna couldn't believe her eyes. What were those marks in the snow – a little Christmas tree, a snowman, an angel and a sledge? A smile crept across her face. It must have been Sven, her pal from school who lived next door. And if it had been him, the message could only be meant for her. She took the Christmas tree to mean good wishes for a happy Christmas, the angel was a compliment to her (she did tend to be a little vain sometimes), while the snowman and the sledge were an invitation to play during the holidays. And, even after getting all her other Christmas presents, she still thought these were the best gifts of all …

His Matschers Voice

From 11 November 2016 our Christmas stamps will be coming to life! More information at postshop.ch/lupe

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Christmas

CHF 0.85 Christmas tree • **CHF 1.00** Snowman • **CHF 1.50** Angel • **CHF 2.00** Sledge

Set
A118 150 ★
A118 550 ⊙
CHF 5.35

Set of blocks of four
A118 160 ★
A118 560 ⊙
CHF 21.40

Sheet of 10 stamps

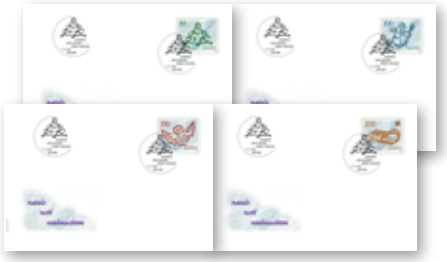
0.85 Christmas tree
A118 361 ★
A118 381 ⊙
CHF 8.50

1.00 Snowman
A118 362 ★
A118 382 ⊙
CHF 10.00

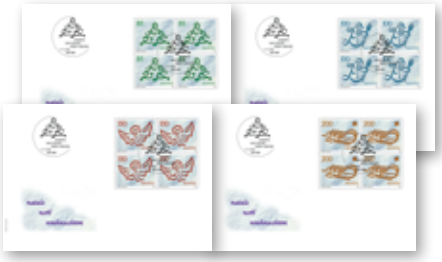
1.50 Angel
A118 363 ★
A118 383 ⊙
CHF 15.00

2.00 Sledge
A118 364 ★
A118 384 ⊙
CHF 20.00

Set on first day cover C6
A118 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 6.25*

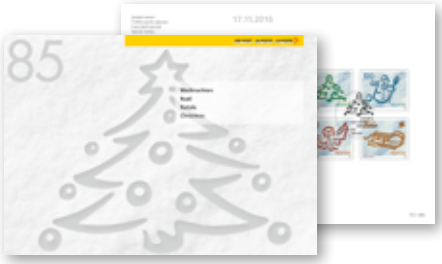


Single stamp on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A118 600 ⊙ *only* *CHF 8.95*



Block of four on first day cover C6
(4 covers)
A118 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 25.00*

Unstamped cover C6
A118 700
CHF 0.90



Folder/collection sheet
A118 640 ★
A118 650 ⊙ *CHF 6.15*

Christmas cards with covers and stamps*
Set of 4 A6 double cards with the motif "Christmas tree", 4 C6 covers and 4 "Christmas tree" Christmas stamps (CHF 0.85) (not affixed)
A118 951 ★ *only* *CHF 9.20*

Christmas cards with covers and stamps*
Set of 4 A6 double cards with the motif "Snowman", 4 C6 covers and 4 "Snowman" Christmas stamps (CHF 1.00) (not affixed)
A118 952 ★ *only* *CHF 9.80*

* These articles are not delivered as part of a standing order.

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 to 31.12.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 17.11.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour and coloured glitter;
Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 82×198 mm (5 rows of 2 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation
4-page serpentine cut

Design
Ludek Martschini, Lucerne

First day cover motif
(blind embossing)

First day cancellation

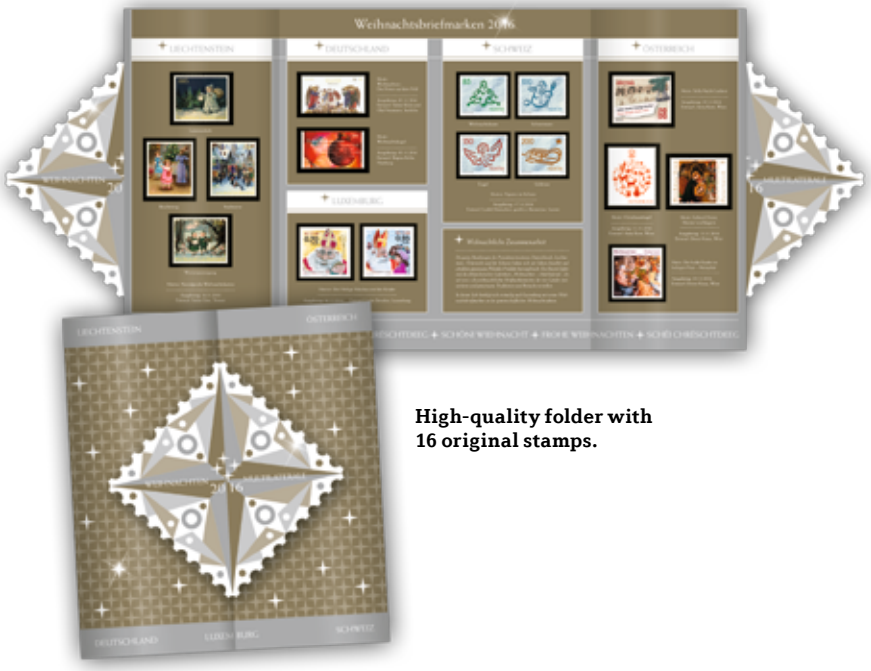
Christmas market in Wienacht-Tobel

For the 24th time, Wienacht's traditional Christmas market will take place on the first Sunday in Advent, which this year falls on 27 November.

As in previous years, Swiss Post is issuing a special cancellation to mark the occasion. The matching first day cover comes from the Wienacht/Lutzenberg tourist office.

A special year-end offer

This year's multilateral product includes a total of 16 original 2016 Christmas stamps issued in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Austria and – for the first time – Luxembourg.



High-quality folder with 16 original stamps.

Christmas market 2016 "Wienacht-Tobel"

Special cover C6
franked with the special stamp "Snowman" (CHF 1.00) and cancelled with the special cancellation "9405 Wienacht-Tobel 27.11.2016"
A122 991 ⊙ *only* *CHF 1.90*

Unstamped special cover C6
A122 700
CHF 0.90

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Multilateral Christmas set for 2016

Multilateral Christmas set with 16 stamps
Article available in German only.
A118 990 ★ *only* *CHF 18.50*

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Regal finale with gold, frankincense and myrrh

After three years the "Three Kings" motif brings this series to a close. The card and envelope were designed by Uschi Regez Miniart, who lives in the Bernese Oberland. The cover is franked with the CHF 1.00 stamp from this year's Christmas set and bears the "Bethlehem" special cancellation.

Special cancellation

Special post office Bethlehem

Date: 15 to 21 December 2016

Place: Special post office Bethlehem, "im Tscharni",
Café und Quartierzentrum, Waldmannstrasse 17, 3027 Berne

Directions: Tram no. 8 to Tscharnergut tram stop

Opening times:

Thursday, 15 December,	1 to 5 p.m.
Friday, 16 December,	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Monday, 19 December,	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, 20 December,	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, 21 December,	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. / 1 to 5 p.m.

A letterbox will also be set up from 15 December (1 p.m.) until 21 December (5 p.m.).

Letters mailed and franked with valid postage stamps will also be cancelled (must not contain valuable items and please use the correct franking amount, also applies to registered items). **These should be sent in a franked envelope by no later than 14 December 2016 to the following address:**
Post Offices and Sales, Retail Logistics PV 53, "Bethlehem" Cancellation Service, Ostermundigenstrasse 91, 3030 Berne.
Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope so that the article for cancellation can be returned to you. Thank you.

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Christmas 2016 "Bethlehem"

Special cover "Bethlehem" C6
franked with the special stamp "Snowman" (CHF 1.00) and cancelled with the special cancellation "3027 Bern 27 Bethlehem 15.–21. Dezember 2016"
A119 141 ⊙ *only* *CHF 1.90*

Unstamped special cover C6
A119 142
CHF 0.90

2016 Christmas card, unstamped
A6, four pages, printed greetings in Ge, Fr, It, En
A119 143 *CHF 0.90*

These products are not delivered as part of a standing order.

All aboard! – Don't miss the train!

July 2016 saw the launch of a new series of definitive stamps featuring "Swiss railway stations". The series kicked off with stations in Brig, Lucerne, Bellinzona and Geneva. Now in October these are being followed by the "Basel SBB" stamp (with a value of CHF 5.30). Ten more stamps featuring small and medium-sized stations run by various railway companies are still to come over the next two years. In turning the spotlight on this vital area of Swiss public transport, the series pays homage to the densest railway network in the world.

Folder and binder for collecting the set
With this new definitive stamp series, we are launching a wonderful collection for you. Over the next three years, the "Swiss railway stations" stamps will replace the various other definitive stamp motifs. We will be taking you on a fascinating journey through Swiss railway station architecture.

Folder for 2016
The first issue in the set contains plenty of fascinating information about the Basel SBB, Bellinzona, Brig, Geneva and Lucerne railway stations. Learn the stories behind these impressive historic buildings. The glossy folder incorporating the architectural highlights of the stations and containing the five cancelled definitive stamps is a real "must have", and not just for philatelists.
Accompanied by explanatory text, this high-quality printed product is attractively designed by the actual stamp artists themselves. The handy six-page fold-out fits perfectly in the binder.

Binder (for all three annual issues)

Binder
Get your collection off to a great start with the high-class binder incorporating a practical sleeve to hold the three folders. Made of high-quality cardboard, the binder echoes the design of the definitive stamps and the folders. It provides excellent protection for all three folder issues (2016, 2017 and 2018) for storage and archival purposes.

Preferential offer
To launch this collector's series, we are offering a special deal. For CHF 25.00 you will receive the first folder (issue year 2016) with the binder as a set, saving 10% on the individual prices.

Folder (with stamps issued in one year)

Folder and binder
Swiss railway stations

Folder with 5 stamps A109 990 *only* ⊙	*CHF 19.00*
Binder A109 991	*CHF 9.00*
Folder and binder as a set A109 992 *only* ⊙	*CHF 25.00*

These products are not delivered as part of a standing order.

Basel SBB

This magnificent station building, completed in 1907, replaced an earlier one built for what was then the Swiss Central Railway network. Basel SBB station is the largest frontier railway station in Europe, serving as a stop and transfer point for railway traffic from Switzerland to France and Germany. Owing to its importance, the station has been rebuilt and modernized several times. Renovation of its west wing will see this modernization completed in the next few years.

Toni Häfliger

Special post office

Following its refurbishment, 14 and 15 October 2016 will see the inauguration of the new expanded station in Bellinzona. A special post office will be open on Saturday 15 October 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
See postshop.ch/focus-on-stamps-online and Philanews 10/16 (in German) for further information.

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Swiss railway stations

CHF 5.30 Basel

Single stamp
A121 150 ★
A121 550 ⊙
CHF 5.30

Block of four
A121 160 ★
A121 560 ⊙
CHF 21.20

Sheet of 10 stamps
A121 361 ★
A121 381 ⊙
CHF 53.00

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Unstamped cover C6
A121 700
CHF 0.90

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A121 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 6.20*

Block of four on first day cover C6
A121 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 22.10*

Folder/collection sheet
A121 640 ★
A121 650 ⊙
CHF 6.10

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 until further notice
Philately: From 17.11.2016 until further notice

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

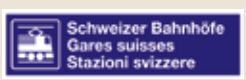
Printing
Offset, 6-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 82×198 mm (5 rows of 2 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

Perforation
4-page serpentine cut

Design
Marc Weller, Berne



First day cover motif
(blind embossing)

First day cancellation

A dialogue with childhood

"A child is a book from which we read, and in which we should write", said Austrian writer Peter Rosegger (1843–1918) …

Pro Juventute is launching a new series of stamps on the theme of schooldays with a pair of motifs: Learning and playing, or blackboard and playground, that is to say Pythagoras and hopscotch. The two poles of our schooldays, the two areas in which we gather a multitude of experiences that will shape our subsequent lives. Acquiring knowledge and having fun: both were crucial for our development. Think back to your own childhood. What memories remain unforgettable? How did you fare back then? And how did your colleagues get on? Sure, not everyone had the same opportunities, just like today. And that's exactly the problem that Pro Juventute is seeking to address – by creating equal opportunities for our young people. The money raised from these annual stamp issues therefore all flows into support projects working in this area. You can help too. After all, the festive season is the ideal time for a humanitarian gesture.

His Matschers Voice

The credit card-sized stamp booklet fits neatly into a wallet. It contains six A Mail and six B Mail stamps. So you'll always have the right stamp to hand.

Two motifs instead of three in future

Changes to the Swiss Postal Act mean that it is now possible for social and cultural organizations other than Pro Juventute and Pro Patria to submit an application for a special stamp with a surcharge.
To keep the number of such surcharge stamps issued each year within manageable limits, especially for subscribers and collectors, after consulting the two foundations, Swiss Post has reduced the number of stamps to two per year for each foundation.

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Pro Juventute

CHF 1.25 (0.85+0.40) Breaktime • **CHF 1.50** (1.00+0.50) Lesson

Set
A116 150 ★
A116 550 ⊙
CHF 2.75

Set of blocks of four
A116 160 ★
A116 560 ⊙
CHF 11.00

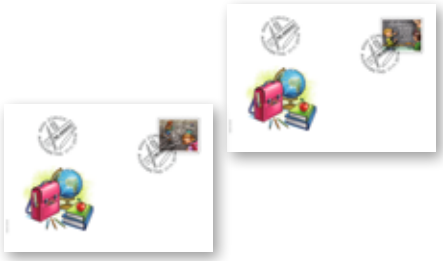
Sheet of 10 stamps

1.25 Breaktime
A116 111 ★
A116 511 ⊙
CHF 12.50

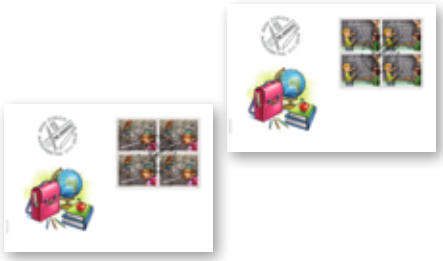
1.50 Lesson
A116 112 ★
A116 512 ⊙
CHF 15.00

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Set on first day cover C6
A116 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 3.65*



Single stamp on first day cover C6
(2 covers)
A116 600 ⊙ *only* *CHF 4.55*



Block of four on first day cover C6
(2 covers)
A116 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 12.80*

Unstamped cover C6
A116 700
CHF 0.90

Folder/collection sheet
A116 640 ★
A116 650 ⊙ *CHF 3.55*

Stamp booklet
6 self-adhesive stamps with a value of CHF 0.85+0.40 featuring the "Breaktime" motif plus 6 self-adhesive stamps with a value of CHF 1.00+0.50 featuring the "Lesson" motif.
A116 300 ★
A116 800 ⊙ *CHF 16.50*

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 to 30.6.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 17.11.2016 to 30.6.2017, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Stamp: 33×28 mm
Sheetlet: 82×198 mm (5 rows of 2 stamps)
Stamp booklet: 254×62 mm (open), 86×62mm (folded)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, self-adhesive, on backing paper, 196 gm²

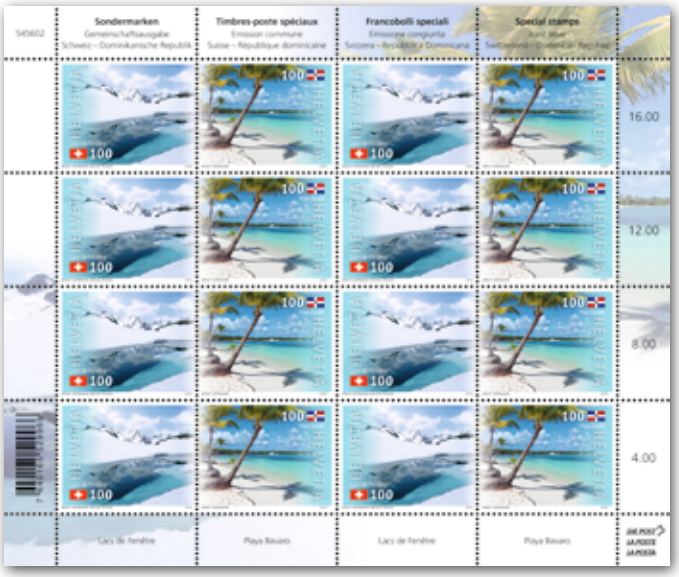
Perforation
4-page serpentine cut

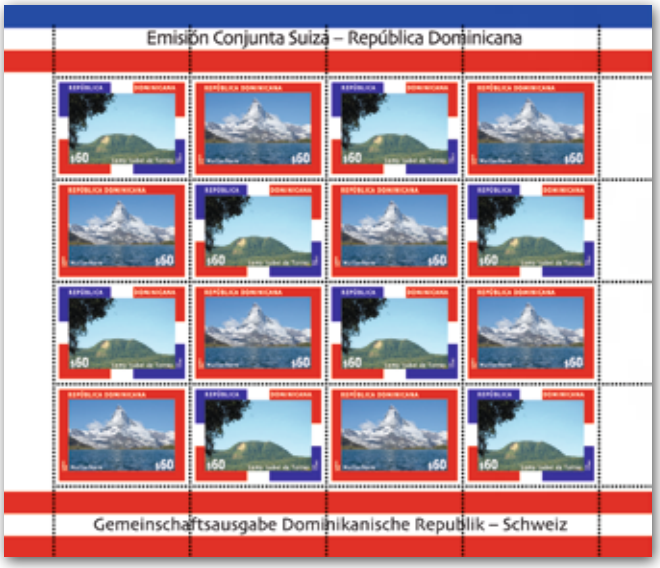
Design
Christian Kitzmüller, Bülach

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Stepping across the Atlantic





Dominican stamp sheet, designed by Alejandro Vignieri

Dominican Republic first day cancellation

The first Swiss families settled in the Dominican Republic in the 19th century. Official bilateral relations did not begin until 1936, however, when Switzerland appointed Frederic Schaad to be its first Honorary Consul and opened a consulate in Santo Domingo. This was changed to a consulate-general in 1959, then upgraded to an embassy in 2007. For its part, the Dominican Republic opened an embassy in Berne in 1999.

The two countries have had a very good economic, political and cultural relationship over the course of these 80 years.

Although most Swiss people will only be aware of the Dominican Republic as a tropical holiday resort, it has more in common with Switzerland than one might think, both in terms of population (DR: 10 million, CH: 8.5 million) and in terms of area (DR: 48,000 km², CH: 41,000 km²) the two countries are fairly similar. They also share some similarities when it comes to nature. For instance – and it probably comes as a surprise to many – there are wonderful mountain ranges in the island's interior. To commemorate this major anniversary of relations between the two countries, a joint issue will focus on these commonalities. The linking element of the stamps is therefore the landscapes: water on the two Swiss stamps and mountains on the two Dominican ones.

Muriel Fischer,
Swiss Embassy in Santo Domingo

Joint issue Switzerland – Dominican Republic

CHF 1.00 Lacs de Fenêtre • **CHF 1.00** Playa Bavaro

Articles with Swiss stamps

Set
A111 150 ★
A111 550 ⊙
CHF 2.00

Block of four
A111 160 ★
A111 560 ⊙
CHF 4.00

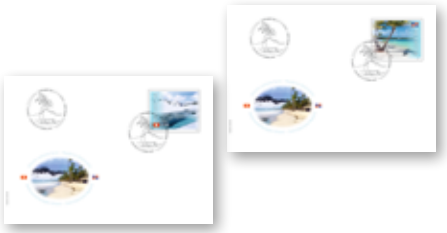
Sheet of 16 stamps*
A111 111 ★
A111 511 ⊙
CHF 16.00

Unstamped covers

C6 (162×114 mm)
A111 700
CHF 0.90

E6 (200×140 mm)
A111 701
CHF 1.00

Set on first day cover C6
A111 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 2.90*



Single stamp on first day cover C6
(2 covers)
A111 600 ⊙ *only* *CHF 3.80*

Block of four on first day cover C6
A111 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 4.90*

Folder/collection sheet
A111 640 ★
A111 650 ⊙
CHF 2.80

* The sheet comprises 8 stamps with the motifs "Lacs de Fenêtre" and "Playa Bavaro"; not available separately.

Articles with stamps from both Switzerland and the Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic set with 2 stamps**
A112 150 ★ only
CHF 3.00

Sheet of 16 stamps**
A112 111 ★ only
CHF 24.00

Important: The Dominican stamps are only valid for franking in the Dominican Republic. No mail may be franked in Switzerland with these stamps. The stamps are only available as a set or as a whole sheet.

** These articles are not delivered as part of a standing order.

First day cover with the stamps of both countries E6
A112 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 6.00*

Folder/collection sheet with the stamps of both countries
A112 640 ★
A112 650 ⊙ *CHF 5.80*

Special rules apply to cancellation orders.
These can be found in "Philanews 11/2016" at www.swisspost.ch/stamp-publications.

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 to 31.12.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 17.11.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour, Gutenberg AG, Schaan, Liechtenstein

Sizes
Stamp: 40×32.5 mm
Sheetlet: 190×162 mm (4 rows of 4 stamps, 2 motifs on one sheetlet)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13½

Design
Brigit Herrmann, Gümmenen;
Photography "Lacs de Fenêtre": Michel Roggo

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Philately is and will always be well-rounded

It's that time of year again when we celebrate the stamp's own special day. So for once it can be a bit unconventional – for example round …

Scene of the action: The region of Oberaargau at the northeasternmost tip of the canton of Berne, nestled between the Jura range and the Napf mountains. The river Aare flows majestically through pastures and fields, past green hills, fortified castles and lush meadows. One notable attraction of the region is the irrigation system begun in the 13th century by the Cistercian monks of St. Urban's Abbey. With their sophisticated techniques, the monks flooded the 110 hectares of meadowland three times a year according to a precise plan, thereby providing a habitat for rare plants and animals. So the meadows are part of our cultural heritage of national significance. It is here in Aarwangen that the philatelic event of the year will take place from 2 to 4 December 2016. This year's organizers are Langenthal's stamp collectors' association, which is aiming to win over more people to the fascination of philately, in particular among the younger generation. The programme therefore also includes the presentation of legendary rarities and collections, plus a stamp exchange and much more besides. So the postage stamp is alive and well. Long live the stamp!

His Matschers Voice

Philexpo 2016, level III

Venue: Sonnhalde community hall, Aarwangen

Opening times of exhibition, stamp fair and special post office:

Friday, 2.12.2016	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 3.12.2016	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 4.12.2016	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

During the exhibition Swiss Post will operate a special post office which will use the special cancellation illustrated here. Please send individual envelopes to the following address by no later than 1 December 2016: Post CH Ltd, Post Offices and Sales, Retail Logistics PV53, "TdBM2016" Cancellation Service, Ostermundigenstrasse 91, 3030 Berne.

Autograph session
On Saturday from 10 to 11.30 a.m. Thomas Rathgeb, the designer of the miniature sheet, will be signing autographs at the special post office.

See philexpo-2016.ch for further information (in German).

View across the Aare to the picturesque Aarwangen castle.

Stamp Day 2016 in Oberaargau

CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) Oberaargau

Miniature sheet
A117 315 ★
A117 815 ⊙
CHF 1.50

Picture postcard
Face value CHF 1.50 (1.00+0.50) + 1.00 for the card
A117 841 ★
A117 846 ⊙
CHF 2.50

Miniature sheet on first day cover C6
A117 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 2.40*

Unstamped cover C6
A117 700
CHF 0.90

Folder/collection sheet
A117 640 ★
A117 650 ⊙ *CHF 2.30*

Sales
Philately: From 10.11.2016 to 31.12.2017, while stocks last
Post offices in Langenthal region: From 17.11.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 17.11.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes
Miniature sheet: 125×45 mm
Stamp: Round, ∅ 35 mm

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
14¼

Design
Thomas Rathgeb, Berne

First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Association cover with "Tierlihuus Aarwangen" motif with special cancellation.

Special cancellation

Official USPS product

Special cover C6 of the Union of Swiss Philatelists' Societies (USPS)
franked with the miniature sheet "Stamp Day 2016 Oberaargau" and cancelled with the special cancellation "4912 Aarwangen 2.– 4.12.2016"
A117 581 ⊙ *only* *CHF 4.00*

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Flown first day cover

Flown first day cover "50th Aerophilately Days" from Swiss Post in a limited edition of 1,500. This exclusive product was flown on 8 September 2016 in the Stinson L-5B, HB-TRY from Berne-Belp to Grenchen and bears the arrival postmark "2540 Grenchen" on the back.
Please note: The exact flight plan was not yet known when we went to press. If the flight does not go ahead on 8 September 2016 due to adverse weather conditions, it will be postponed to the next possible day and the cover will be stamped with a note to this effect.
The special cover will be issued with the articles from issue 04/16 and is not included in the standing order!

50th Aerophilately Days

Flown special cover in a limited edition of 1,500
includes the address and additional information about the flight.
Stamped on the reverse side with the arrival postmark "2540 Grenchen"
A108 990 *only* ⊙ *CHF 11.00*

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

There's something for everyone in the 2016 year book

Also available on standing order!
Tel.: +41 (0)848 66 55 44
E-mail: stamps@swisspost.ch

Already the cover is impressive – with the Gotthard Massif alone, the year book represents a large part of Switzerland and the longest tunnel building story in the world. The book presents 48 original "facets of Switzerland", beginning with the ever-popular – and exclusive to the year book – black print. In 2016 this is one of the two special stamps with the "Gottardo 2016" gutter dedicated to the opening of the Gotthard Base Tunnel.

The layout has also changed greatly. Large black and white background images showcase the miniature works of art depicted, while the different languages provide a kaleidoscope of colours.

Our journey through the 2016 stamp year takes us from the big ships of the Swiss merchant fleet to art history, then proceeds from people whose work has made history to fantastic heart-warming children's stories and to animals who turn night into day. The journey then continues via traditional wrestling fought on sawdust to one of the five Swiss railway stations featured in the new definitive stamp series. Further stations en route include congratulations stamps, honouring major non-profit institutions, and acknowledging the achievements of people who have paved the way for a change in the way we think about our society. Finally, our tour through aspects of Switzerland is rounded off by the glitter and snow of our Christmas stamps.

Once again, the sheer breadth is astounding. From hard rock formations to craggy veterans of the Swiss music scene, there's something for everyone.

So with this record of our times, give yourself – and your loved ones – a little piece of Switzerland.

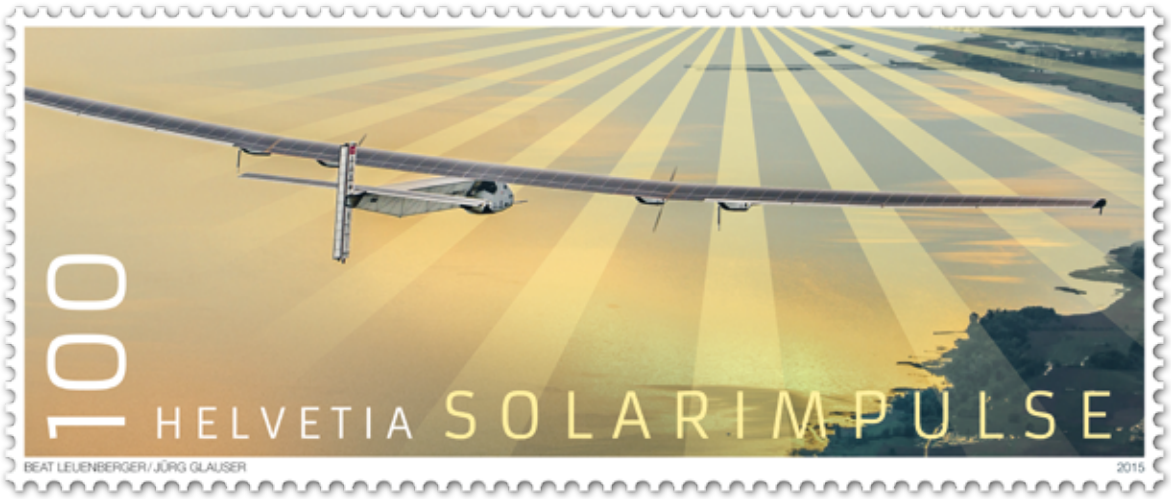
2016 year book of Swiss stamps

As a valuable contemporary document the year book presents all 49 Swiss stamps (including the special event stamp) along with all the first day cancellations and an exclusive black print, on 100 pages in four languages(Ge/Fr/It/En).

A124 830 ★
A124 831 ⊙ *CHF 69.00*

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Round the world on solar power



On the wings of renewable energy

Two Swiss scientists set themselves the goal of flying round the world. With 17,248 solar cells on board. And no kerosene. In March 2015 they took off from Abu Dhabi in Solar Impulse 2 on the first stage of their round-the-world flight.

With an average speed of around 73 km/h, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg flew via India to China across the Pacific. They had to take a break in Hawaii in winter 2015-2016 because of the weather before continuing their journey on 21 April 2016.

The non-stop flight from New York over the Atlantic to Seville then took 71 hours and 8 minutes.

Solar Impulse 2 landed at its departure point in Abu Dhabi on 26 July 2016.

Throughout the flight, the 2.3-tonne solar aircraft was powered solely by the sun's energy it stored during the day and travelled 43,041 km in 17 stages. A masterful achievement!

Swiss Post Ltd

Further info: **solarimpulse.com**

Stamps always bear their year of issue in the margin. The special "Solar Impulse" stamp shows the year 2015. This is not an error but a project-related aspect. The landing of Solar Impulse was originally planned in 2015. Swiss Post believed from the outset that the project would be a success. To ensure that the special stamp can be issued on time for the event it was printed with 2015 as the year of issue. The Solar Impulse project then had to be delayed until 2016, as did the issue of the special stamp. For environmental reasons, Swiss Post decided not to reprint the stamp.

The reverse side of the first day cover shows the flight route of Solar Impulse 2.

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Solar Impulse

CHF 1.00

Single stamp
A062 150 ★
A062 550 ⊙
CHF 1.00

Block of four
A062 160 ★
A062 560 ⊙
CHF 4.00

Sheet of 8 stamps
A062 111 ★
A062 511 ⊙
CHF 8.00

Unstamped covers

C6 (162×114 mm)
A062 700
CHF 0.90

E6 (200×140 mm)
A062 701
CHF 1.00

Single stamp on first day cover C6
A062 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 1.90*

Block of four on first day cover E6
A062 630 ⊙ *only* *CHF 5.00*

Folder/collection sheet
A062 640 ★
A062 650 ⊙ *CHF 1.80*

Numismatic letter
Numismatic letter bearing a "Solar Impulse" special stamp with a value of CHF 1.00 dated 27.7.2016 and a commemorative "Solar Impulse" coin with a legal denominational value of CHF 20.00, cancelled with the first day cancellation, B6 format (176×125 mm)
A062 210 ⊙ *only* *CHF 39.90*

This product is not delivered as part of a standing order.

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

Sales
Philately: From 27.7.2016 to 30.9.2017, while stocks last
Post offices: From 27.7.2016, while stocks last

Validity
Unlimited from 27.7.2016

Printing
Offset, 4-colour and varnish;
Cartor Security Printing, La Loupe, France

Sizes
Stamps: 80×33 mm
Sheetlet: 188×160 mm (4 rows of 2 stamps)

Paper
White stamp paper with optical brightener, matt gummed, 110 gm²

Perforation
13:13¼

Design
Beat Leuenberger and Jürg Glauser, Berne

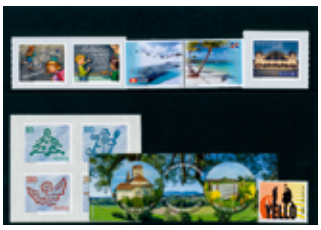
First day cover motif

First day cancellation

Colourful stamps
selected for you

Order using the enclosed order form or at postshop.ch

Annual and special products



Set of single stamps, 4/2016 edition
The single stamps/sets and the miniature sheet in the 4/2016 issue dated 17.11.2016 are displayed on a free A5 backing card with a protective cellophane wrapping.
A114 150 ★
A114 550 ⊙ *CHF 17.90*

2016 year set
All 48 Swiss stamps for the year, clearly laid out on handy display cards with transparent protective sleeve.
A123 320 ★
A123 820 ⊙ *CHF 59.75*

Set of first day covers, 4/2016 edition
The first day covers with set and miniature sheets of the 4/2016 issue of 17.11.2016 are combined in one free cover.
A114 580 ⊙ *only* *CHF 29.30*

2016 year set of first day covers
All 26 first day covers (FDCs) of the year – including the single stamps, sets and miniature sheets with the respective first day cancellations.
A123 530 ⊙ *only* *CHF 88.45*

Note: The special event stamp is not included in the issue and year sets.

Key ★ = mint ⊙ = cancelled

2017 stamp catalogues

Zumstein Switzerland/ Liechtenstein/ UN Geneva
German/French
A113 725
CHF 35.00

Swiss Stamp Dealers Assoc. Switzerland/Liechtenstein/UN Geneva
German/French
A113 787
CHF 37.00

The stamp catalogues are only available in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Look forward
to the 2017 stamp year

Once again, the first half of the year will be devoted to major anniversaries, round birthdays and a big Swiss festival. As babies we're all sweet – cuddly wild animals can melt your heart, a mountain chain invites you to go hiking, and more castles and fortresses transport us back to a chivalric past.

Subject to changes and additions.
You can always find the latest version at swisspost.ch/stamps.

Day of issue: **2 March 2017**
Presented in: **Focus 1/2017 dated 20 January 2017**

No.	Value	Description
4	**5.35**	**Special stamps Baby animals**
	0.85	Otter
	1.00	Lynx
	1.50	Wolf
	2.00	Bear
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps 200th anniversary of the bicycle**
	1.00	Draisine
	1.00	Modern bicycle
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 200 years of Hergiswil glass craftsmanship
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps 50 years of Schilthorn – Piz Gloria**
	1.00	Cable car
	1.00	Revolving restaurant
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Niklaus von Flüe 1417–2017
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 50 years of the Swiss Heart Fondation

We reserve the right to make changes. As at: August 2016

Day of issue: **11 May 2017**
Presented in: **Focus 2/2017 dated 31 March 2017**

No.	Value	Description
4	**3.40**	**Special stamps Churfirsten**
	0.85	Selun-Frümsel
	0.85	Brisi-Zuestoll
	0.85	Schibenstoll-Hinderrugg
	0.85	Chäserrugg
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 70th Festival del film Locarno
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 125 years of the Brienz Rothorn railway
1	**2.00**	**Postal card** 125 years of the Brienz Rothorn railway
4	**2.75**	**Special stamps with surcharge Pro Patria – Fortresses and castles of Switzerland**
	0.85+0.40	Visconti Castle (Locarno TI)
	1.00+0.50	Oberhofen Castle (BE)
2	**2.00**	**Special stamps Europa – Castles**
	1.00	Value 1
	1.00	Value 2
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** 50 years ch Foundation
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp with surcharge** 1.00+0.50 100 years of Pro Senectute
1	**1.00**	**Special stamp** Unspunnen 2017

Event calendar for the first half of 2017

Month	Key	Date	Town	Occasion
January	F	20.1.		Focus on Stamps 1/2017; stamps magazine
March	**I**	**2.3.**		**Issue date**
	F/E	Date follows *	Milan	Milanofil17
	F	31.3.		Focus on Stamps 2/2017; stamps magazine
April	CS	24.4.	Zurich	Sechseläuten
May	**A**	**11.5.**		**Issue date**
	M	11.5.–13.5.	Essen	International Stamp Fair 2017

Legende
I Issue date for stamps/ postal stationery
F Focus on Stamps (stamps magazine)
F/E Fair/Exhibition
CS Cancellation service

* The exact date of the trade fairs was not known by the copy deadline.

Subject to changes and additions. You can always find the latest version at swisspost.ch/stamps.

Focus on stamps online
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postshop.ch/focusonstamps

SWISS POST
Yellow in motion.